

## Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /124 W  
----- 016087

P 231515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4061

INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 476

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: BOKASSA SPEECH TO MILITARY

REF: BANGUI 406, 426

1. IN APPARENTLY IMPROVISED SPEECH AT APRIL 22 CEREMONY AWARDING RECENT PROMOTIONS AND CHANGING COMMAND OF GENDARMERIE AND GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS, BOKASSA LASHED OUT STRONGLY AT " COLONIALISTS AND THEIR VALETS" FOR MANEUVERS AGAINST PEACE AND PAECEFUL COEXISTENCE WITHIN THE CAR AND AGAINST THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR CHIEF OF STATE. HE VOWED TO ELIMINATE THE " IMPERIALISTS" AND THOSE WHO HAVE SOLD THEMSELVES TO THE LATTER' S CAUSE AND SHARPLY DENOUNCED THE " TRAITORS TO THE NATION" WHO AT BIDDING OF THEIR COLONIALIT MASTERS DO MOST DAMAGE TO COUNTRY. HE SAID CENTRAL AFRICANS HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE WHO PUT PERSONAL INTERESTS AHEAD OF THOSE OF THE NATION AND PROMISED TO PURSUE THEM PITILESSLY.

2. BOKASSA CLAIMED HE HAD NOTHING AGAINST THOSE MEN OF GOODWILL WHO COME FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO HELP CAR, MANY OF THOM HAVE PRACTICALLY CHOSE CAR AS THEIR SECOND  
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HOME. BUT HE ATTACKED THOSE FOREIGNERS WHO ON ARRIVAL  
HERE " HAVE IN THEIR BAGGAGE ONLY A HYPOCRITICAL SMILE"  
AND WHO TRAIL BEHIND THEM AN AMBITION TO PLAY POLITICS ON  
CENTRAL AFRICAN SOIL.

3. BOKASSA REMINDED LISTENERS OF HIS OWN MILITARY RECORD AND  
ROLE IN CREATING CAR ARMED FORCES. HE SAID HE HAD FASHIONED  
LATTER IN HIS OWN IMAGE, HAD RESPONDED TO HOPES OF ALL, AND  
HAD NOTHING TO BE REPROACHED ABOUT ON THIS SCORE. HE DEPLORED  
THAT AFRICA COULD NOT MOUNT AN ARMYHCOMMANDED BY 10 MEN AS  
DETERMINED AS HE TO ELIMINATE BY FORCE COLONIALISM AND  
RACISM EVERYWHERE, BUT SAID SOMEDAY SUCH GENERAL LIBERATION  
WILL BE ATTAINED.

4. BOKASSA CONCLUDED BY CALLING UPON ARMED FORCES TO HEIGHTEN  
THEIR VIGILANCE AND REMAIN STRONGLY UNITED UNDER HIM BECAUSE  
HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO PUNISH ENERGETICALLY ANY FAILINGS.

5. SPEECH HAS BEEN REBROADCAST OVER RADIO DURING SEVERAL  
REGULAR NEWSCASTS.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS QUITE SHARP IN TONE AND EMPLOYED  
STRONGEST LANGUAGE USED BY BOKASSA PUBLICLY IN MANY MONTHS. HE  
CLEARLY WAS AIMING FIRST OF ALL AT THOSE SUCH AS M' BONGO  
WHOM HE ACTED AGAINST IN RECENT CABINET AND MILITARY SHIFTS  
( SEE REFTELS), AND WAS USING OCCASION TO EXPLAIN HIS ACTIONS  
AND WARN OFF ANY OTHER POTENTIAL OPPONENTS. WHILE HE DID NOT  
MENTION BY NAME OR EVEN IMPLY THAT ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR  
GOVERNMENT INVOLVED, FOREIGNERS HE RAILED AGAINST WOULD SEEM  
TO BE PRIMARILY FRENCH, SOME OF WHOM HE REPORTEDLY CONSIDERS  
MAY HAVE BEE BEHIND M' BONGO OR AT LEAST SYMPATHETIC TO HIM.  
HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO " IMPERIALIST" AND THEIR " VALETS,"  
AS WELL AS CALL FOR FORCEFUL ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM AND  
RACISM IN AFRICA, COULD MEAN THAT HE HAS OTHERS, PARTICULARLY OTHER  
WESTERNERS, IN MIND ALSO.

7. FRENCH EMBASSY DOES NOT CONSIDER REMARKS NECESSARILY  
DIRECTED AGAINST THEM, ALTHOUGH THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THERE IS  
ALWAYS POSSIBILITY INDIVIDUAL FRENCHMEN MAY BE INVOLVED,  
ZVEN INADVERTENTLY. BOKASSA RECEIVED AND ENTERTAINED FRENCH  
FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D' ESTAING ( IN CAR ON PRIVATE HUNTING  
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TRIP) LAST NIGHT, AND ATMOSPHERE WAS REPORTEDLY QUITE CONGENIAL  
AND FRANCO- CAR RELATIONS HIGHLY LAUDED.  
ROSENTHAL

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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